Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

Media Contact:

Sally McKay; 803-734-2196; smckay@scda.sc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- June 26, 2018

2019 Industrial Hemp Applications Due This Friday

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Applications for the South Carolina Industrial Hemp Pilot Program are due by 5pm this Friday, June 29.

To qualify for a permit, applicants must:

- be a South Carolina resident;
- pass a state and federal background check administered by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division;
- have a signed letter of intent with an industrial hemp manufacturer/processor;
- have a signed letter of intent with a qualifying college or university; and
- submit GPS coordinates for the land where industrial hemp will be grown.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will select 40 farmers to receive industrial hemp permits. Those farmers who receive permits will each be allowed to grow up to 40 acres of the crop. The 2018 pilot program allowed 20 farmers to grow up to 20 acres of industrial hemp.

Visit <u>www.agriculture.sc.gov</u> for more information and to access an industrial hemp pilot program application.